

In re: Stephen William Briggs et al  
Filed: September 15, 2006  
Serial No.: TBD  
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In the Claims:

Please substitute the enclosed claims for the claims in the original application PRIOR TO computing the claims filing fees:

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder, comprising a plurality of substantially parallel tubular sleeves, each sleeve extending between opposite sleeve ends and being joined to at least one adjacent sleeve and having at one or both of said ends an entrance with dimensions suitable for receiving just one drum stick, wherein at least one of the sleeves has an entrance at both of said ends and each sleeve is formed from an integral tube of elastomeric material that extends fully around a longitudinal axis of the sleeve so that each sleeve may hold a drum stick inserted into the entrance at one or both of said ends of said sleeve.
2. (Original) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1, in which each of said sleeves has a longitudinal axis, and each of said axes lies in a common plane that extends through each sleeve.
3. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in ~~Claim 1~~ or Claim 2, in which each sleeve is joined to an adjacent sleeve by means of a web of elastomeric material.
4. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 3, ~~when appendant from Claim 2,~~ in which the or each web of material lies in said plane in which said longitudinal axes lie.
5. (Cancelled) ~~A drum stick holder as claimed in any preceding claim, in which at least one of the sleeves is open at both ends.~~

~~claim, in which at least one of the sleeves is open at both ends.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, in which all of the sleeves have an entrance ~~are open at both ends.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in ~~any of~~ Claims 1 to 5, in which the holder comprises one or more plugs that may be removably inserted into one or more corresponding sleeves to close off one end of said sleeve(s).

8. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 7, in which at least one plug when inserted into a sleeve is adjustable along an axial direction to vary the depth of said sleeve.

9. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, in which each of said sleeves is integrally moulded with the other sleeve(s) as an extrusion.

10. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, in which at least one sleeve is tapered internally to aid insertion of a drum stick into the sleeve and to grip the drum stick once inserted into the sleeve.

11. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, in which a tear strip separates at least two adjacent sleeves so that at least one sleeve may be torn from the

drum stick holder to reduce the number of sleeves.

12. (Cancelled) ~~A drum stick holder as claimed in any preceding claim, in which each sleeve is a tubular sleeve.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, in which each sleeve has an annular cross-section.

14. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, comprising additionally a mount for mounting the holder to a drum kit, the arrangement being such that each sleeve is supported by the mount.

15. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 14, in which the mount is affixed to one end of at least one sleeve.

16. (Cancelled) ~~A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 15, in which each sleeve has an open end for receiving a drum stick, the mount being affixed to an opposite end of at least one of said sleeves.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 14 ~~any of Claims 14 to 16~~, in which the mount includes at least one projection which locates in at least one corresponding sleeve in order to secure the mount to the sleeves.

18. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 14~~any of Claims 14 to 17~~, in which the mount is a bracket seated in a radially extending slot at an end of a sleeve.

19. (Cancelled) ~~A drum stick holder as claimed in any preceding claim, in which each sleeve has the same length.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1~~any preceding claim~~, in which one or more sleeves has a stepped internal diameter.

21. (Cancelled) ~~A drum stick holder as claimed in any preceding claim, in which each sleeve has an open end for receiving a drum stick, there being at least three sleeves and each of said open ends being in line with all the other open ends.~~

22. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1~~any of Claims 1 to 18~~, in which there are at least three sleeves~~each sleeve has an open end for receiving a drum stick~~, at least one middle sleeve projecting forwards of adjacent outermore sleeves relative to an insertion direction for drum sticks.

23. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 1~~any of Claims 1 to 18~~, in which there are at least three sleeves~~each sleeve has an open end for receiving a drum stick~~, at least one middle sleeve projecting inwards of adjacent outermore sleeves relative to an insertion direction for drum sticks.

24. (Currently Amended) A drum stick holder as claimed in Claim 22, in which the open ends of said sleeves are arranged in a V-pattern.

25. (Currently Amended) An accessory for a percussion instrument comprising a drum stick holder and at least one drum stick, said holder having at least one elastomeric sleeve and the drum stick being inserted partially into said sleeve to expand at least to some degree the sleeve so that the sleeve thereby holds or grips the drum stick, wherein the drum stick holder ~~is as claimed in any preceding claim~~ comprises a plurality of substantially parallel tubular sleeves, each sleeve extending between opposite sleeve ends and being joined to at least one adjacent sleeve and having at one or both of said ends an entrance with dimensions suitable for receiving just one drum stick, wherein at least one of the sleeves has an entrance at both of said ends and each sleeve is formed from an integral tube of elastomeric material that extends fully around a longitudinal axis of the sleeve so that each sleeve may hold a drum stick inserted into the or either entrance to said sleeve.